

W SCHOOL OF LAW
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
Innocence Project Northwest Clinic

October 31, 2011

Camilla Faulk, Supreme Court Clerk
Washington State Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

RE: Proposed Standards for Indigent Defense Services, CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, and JuCR 9.2

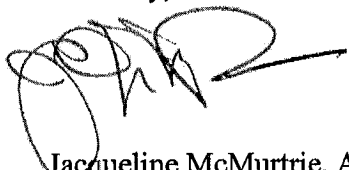
Dear Ms. Faulk,

Thank you for considering our letter in support of the Standards for Indigent Support Services proposed by the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors. The Innocence Project Northwest Clinic (IPNW) works exclusively on post-conviction claims of actual innocence in Washington State. The IPNW was originally formed as a volunteer attorney organization in 1997, and since 2002 has been a formal clinical offering at the University of Washington - School of Law.

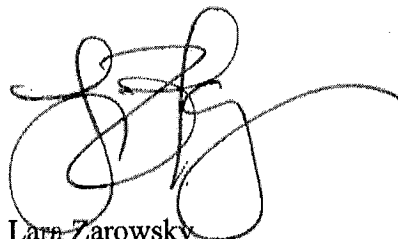
Hundreds of cases of wrongful conviction have been documented in recent decades, providing practitioners and social science researchers an unprecedented opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of our system of criminal justice. Overburdened or under-qualified defense representation is among the factors contributing to the wrongful conviction of innocent people in the United States, and in the State of Washington. The standards proposed by the Board of Governors provide a thoughtful foundation to ensure adequate representation to all indigent defendants in our state.

Every criminal defendant's case is impacted by the caliber of the defense he or she receives. The quality of representation provided by an attorney is tied inexorably to that person's overall workload and previous experience. The proposed indigent defense standards will improve the quality of representation afforded indigent defendants in the State of Washington, and will reduce the likelihood of future wrongful convictions.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline McMurtrie, Associate Professor
Director, IPNW Clinic



Lara Zarowsky
Policy Staff Attorney, IPNW Clinic